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(54) Apparatus and method for image fusing

(57) A method of offset printing in an ink jet printer
(10), the method comprising the steps of:

- forming an ink image on a preliminary receiving surface (9);
- passing a final receiving substrate (11) through a first nip (32) where it comes into contact with the preliminary receiving surface (9);
- exerting a first pressure on the final receiving

substrate (11) in the first nip (32) to transfer the ink image from the preliminary receiving surface (9) to the final receiving substrate (11);
(d) passing the final receiving substrate (11) through a second nip (39); and
(e) exerting a second pressure on the final receiving substrate (11) in the second nip (39) to fuse the ink image into the final receiving substrate (11).

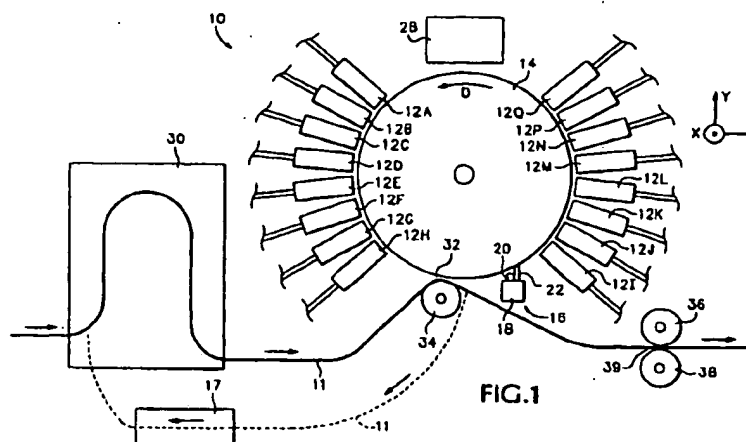


FIG. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 30 1400

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 20 December 1999	Examiner Papastefanou, E
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>I : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application C : document cited for other reasons S : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EP 0 938 975 A3 (DocCl)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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